

Minutes of the Town of Stockbridge Ad-Hoc Zoning Bylaw Review Committee

Date of Meeting: December 11th, 2017 5:30pm

Committee Attendees: Kate Fletcher (co-chair, PB), Ruth Pearce (co-chair, PB), John Hart (CC), Jim Murray (ZBA)

Audience: Joshua Peyron, Anita Schwerner, Christine Rasmussen, L Freeman, Doug Collins, Sean Ferry, Marie Raftery, Heather Drake

Welcome: Kate Fletcher welcomed the committee members and the audience to the fifth meeting of the ad-hoc committee.

Minutes of previous meeting: First item on the agenda was the minutes of the November 29th, 2017 meeting. Minutes approved unanimously. Ruth to ask Danielle to put on the town site.

Follow up on actions items:

Interactive bylaws: Ruth has provided links to Amherst and Weymouth. Some combination of interactive, and broken into separate sections as well as a complete downloadable PDF version is the preference of the committee.

Fast Food Restaurant: Jim provided some feedback and had looked at other towns such as Lenox. He undertook to continue with some further research.

Family definition: Ruth has still to follow up on this one.

Feedback from the Building Inspector: No response yet. Ruth to go to Town Hall.

Meeting notice did not appear on the noticeboard: Ruth to follow up at Town Hall

Definitions Review

This section of the minutes is accompanied by a marked electronic copy of the Zoning Bylaws (see attached)

1. Additional review – once we complete the review of the Zoning Bylaw main definitions we need to look at definitions contained elsewhere in the bylaw (e.g. for wireless services) and in the main town bylaw for consistency and applicability. We will then make a recommendation as to whether all definitions should be contained in one shared section.
2. There is no definition of right-of-way in the bylaw currently although various definitions and bylaw sections refer to it. John will find out from the town what constitutes a right of way
3. Discussion of the family definition raised some concerns about why five unrelated people count as a family – Ruth to research. Carried over from previous meeting.

Any other business

Town Software Access: It seems that Con Comm and the building inspector may have access to some software that may be of interest to the Planning Board and the ZBA. Kate to follow up with Ron Brouker.

Request from the Stockbridge Town Democratic Committee (STDC) for a public forum to discuss the Cottage Era Estate Bylaw: It was raised at the committee that members of the SDTDC had discussed the need for a public forum to discuss the cottage era estate bylaw. At the STDC meeting it was suggested that the Zoning Review Committee could host a forum. It was felt that the forum must be non-partisan and that Zoning Review Committee members should be able to participate as members of the public and not as representatives of their respective boards, which is their role on the review committee. After discussion, the committee agreed that it is more appropriate for the Planning Board to host.

With all committee members in general agreement, a motion was made as follows:
The Stockbridge Town Zoning Bylaw Review Committee recommends that the Planning Board host a public forum to explore and discuss the future of the Cottage Era Estate Bylaw, and to provide adequate opportunity for public input. It is further recommended that such a forum not be a single event and that the Planning Board considers multiple methods of collecting feedback. Moved by Jim Murray, Seconded by Kate Fletcher. Approved unanimously by the four committee members present.

Ruth will request that the topic be added to the Planning Board agenda for the next Planning Board meeting on December 19th.

Next meeting: there will be no meeting on December 25, 2017. The next meeting date is pending input from committee members.

The Committee voted to close the meeting at 6:35pm

Actions:

Action	Owner	Due Date	Status
Committee to review definitions and be ready to discuss	ALL	10/23/17	In progress
Research and propose an amended definition for Fast Food	Jim	Next meeting	Continuing
Research the origins of family definition	Ruth	Next Meeting	Continuing
Find out about software used by bldg. insp.	Kate	Next meeting	
Research "right of way"	John	Next meeting	
Request that Cottage Era Estate Bylaw public forum be added to the PB Agenda	Ruth	December 12,	
Follow up with Building Inspector in person	Ruth	December 19	
Follow up with Town Administrators about putting the meeting notice on the boards	Ruth	December 19	

Greyed out items will be deleted in the next set of minutes as they are complete.

